

MOTION UNDER 28 U.S.C. § 2255 TO VACATE, SET ASIDE, OR CORRECT
SENTENCE BY A PERSON IN FEDERAL CUSTODY

United States District Court	District	Northern District of Texas
Name (under which you were convicted): Tyrone Alexander Taylor		Docket or Case No.: 4:19-cr-00268-O-2
Place of Confinement: Terre Haute USP		Prisoner No.: 59133-177
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA		Movant (include name under which convicted)
V.		Tyrone Alexander Taylor

MOTION

1. (a) Name and location of court which entered the judgment of conviction you are challenging:
U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Texas

(b) Criminal docket or case number (if you know): 59133-177
2. (a) Date of the judgment of conviction (if you know): 5/4/2020
(b) Date of sentencing: 5/4/2020
3. Length of sentence: 960 months
4. Nature of crime (all counts):
18 U.S.C §§ 2251(a) and (e)
18 U.S.C §§ 2252(a)(4)(B)

5. (a) What was your plea? (Check one)
(1) Not guilty ☐ (2) Guilty ☒ (3) Nolo contendere (no contest) ☐
6. (b) If you entered a guilty plea to one count or indictment, and a not guilty plea to another count or indictment, what did you plead guilty to and what did you plead not guilty to?

6. If you went to trial, what kind of trial did you have? (Check one) Jury ☐ Judge only ☐
7. Did you testify at a pretrial hearing, trial, or post-trial hearing? Yes ☐ No ☒

8. Did you appeal from the judgment of conviction? Yes ☒ No ☐

9. If you did appeal, answer the following:

(a) Name of court: U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit

(b) Docket or case number (if you know): 20-10457

(c) Result: Affirmed

(d) Date of result (if you know): 3/29/2021

(e) Citation to the case (if you know): _____

(f) Grounds raised:

Taylor argued that a five-level enhancement pursuant to U.S.S.G. § 4B1.5(b)(1) should not have been applied because his conviction for possession of a visual depiction of a minor engaged in sexually explicit conduct was not a covered sex crime

(g) Did you file a petition for certiorari in the United States Supreme Court? Yes ☐ No ☒

If "Yes," answer the following:

(1) Docket or case number (if you know): _____

(2) Result: _____

(3) Date of result (if you know): _____

(4) Citation to the case (if you know): _____

(5) Grounds raised:

10. Other than the direct appeals listed above, have you previously filed any other motions, petitions, or applications, concerning this judgment of conviction in any court?

Yes ☐ No ☒

11. If your answer to Question 10 was "Yes," give the following information:

(a) (1) Name of court: _____

(2) Docket or case number (if you know): _____

(3) Date of filing (if you know): _____

- (4) Nature of the proceeding: _____
- (5) Grounds raised: _____

(6) Did you receive a hearing where evidence was given on your motion, petition, or application?
Yes ☐ No ☐

(7) Result: _____

(8) Date of result (if you know): _____

(b) If you filed any second motion, petition, or application, give the same information:

(1) Name of court: _____

(2) Docket of case number (if you know): _____

(3) Date of filing (if you know): _____

(4) Nature of the proceeding: _____

(5) Grounds raised: _____

(6) Did you receive a hearing where evidence was given on your motion, petition, or application?
Yes ☐ No ☐

(7) Result: _____

(8) Date of result (if you know): _____

(c) Did you appeal to a federal appellate court having jurisdiction over the action taken on your motion, petition, or application?

(1) First petition: Yes ☐ No ☐

(2) Second petition: Yes ☐ No ☐

(d) If you did not appeal from the action on any motion, petition, or application, explain briefly why you did not:

12. For this motion, state every ground on which you claim that you are being held in violation of the Constitution, laws, or treaties of the United States. Attach additional pages if you have more than four grounds. State the facts supporting each ground. Any legal arguments must be submitted in a separate memorandum.

GROUND ONE: Counsel was ineffective for advising Taylor to plead guilty without an agreement where the guilty plea produced no benefit different than a conviction after trial

(a) Supporting facts (Do not argue or cite law. Just state the specific facts that support your claim.):

See attached Memorandum of Law in Support of 28 U.S.C. Section 2255 Motion

(b) Direct Appeal of Ground One:

- (1) If you appealed from the judgment of conviction, did you raise this issue?

Yes ☐ No ☒

- (2) If you did not raise this issue in your direct appeal, explain why:

Claims of ineffective assistance of counsel are more appropriately reserved for collateral review

(c) Post-Conviction Proceedings:

- (1) Did you raise this issue in any post-conviction motion, petition, or application?

Yes ☐ No ☒

- (2) If you answer to Question (c)(1) is "Yes," state:

Type of motion or petition: _____

Name and location of the court where the motion or petition was filed: _____

Docket or case number (if you know): _____

Date of the court's decision: _____

Result (attach a copy of the court's opinion or order, if available): _____

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- (3) Did you receive a hearing on your motion, petition, or application?

Yes ☐ No ☐

(4) Did you appeal from the denial of your motion, petition, or application?

Yes ☐ No ☐

(5) If your answer to Question (c)(4) is "Yes," did you raise the issue in the appeal?

Yes ☐ No ☐

(6) If your answer to Question (c)(4) is "Yes," state:

Name and location of the court where the appeal was filed:

Docket or case number (if you know):

Date of the court's decision:

Result (attach a copy of the court's opinion or order, if available):

(7) If your answer to Question (c)(4) or Question (c)(5) is "No," explain why you did not appeal or raise this issue:

GROUND TWO:

(a) Supporting facts (Do not argue or cite law. Just state the specific facts that support your claim.):

(b) Direct Appeal of Ground Two:

(1) If you appealed from the judgment of conviction, did you raise this issue?

Yes ☐ No ☐

(2) If you did not raise this issue in your direct appeal, explain why:

(c) **Post-Conviction Proceedings:**

(1) Did you raise this issue in any post-conviction motion, petition, or application?

Yes ☐ No ☐

(2) If you answer to Question (c)(1) is "Yes," state:

Type of motion or petition: _____

Name and location of the court where the motion or petition was filed: _____

Docket or case number (if you know): _____

Date of the court's decision: _____

Result (attach a copy of the court's opinion or order, if available): _____

(3) Did you receive a hearing on your motion, petition, or application?

Yes ☐ No ☐

(4) Did you appeal from the denial of your motion, petition, or application?

Yes ☐ No ☐

(5) If your answer to Question (c)(4) is "Yes," did you raise the issue in the appeal?

Yes ☐ No ☐

(6) If your answer to Question (c)(4) is "Yes," state:

Name and location of the court where the appeal was filed: _____

Docket or case number (if you know): _____

Date of the court's decision: _____

Result (attach a copy of the court's opinion or order, if available): _____

(7) If your answer to Question (c)(4) or Question (c)(5) is "No," explain why you did not appeal or raise this issue:

GROUND THREE: _____

(a) Supporting facts (Do not argue or cite law. Just state the specific facts that support your claim.):

(b) Direct Appeal of Ground Three:

(1) If you appealed from the judgment of conviction, did you raise this issue?

Yes ☐ No ☐

(2) If you did not raise this issue in your direct appeal, explain why:

(c) Post-Conviction Proceedings:

(1) Did you raise this issue in any post-conviction motion, petition, or application?

Yes ☐ No ☐

(2) If you answer to Question (c)(1) is "Yes," state:

Type of motion or petition: _____

Name and location of the court where the motion or petition was filed: _____

Docket or case number (if you know): _____

Date of the court's decision: _____

Result (attach a copy of the court's opinion or order, if available): _____

(3) Did you receive a hearing on your motion, petition, or application?

Yes ☐ No ☐

(4) Did you appeal from the denial of your motion, petition, or application?

Yes ☐ No ☐

(5) If your answer to Question (c)(4) is "Yes," did you raise the issue in the appeal?

Yes ☐ No ☐

(6) If your answer to Question (c)(4) is “Yes,” state:

Name and location of the court where the appeal was filed:

Docket or case number (if you know):

Date of the court’s decision:

Result (attach a copy of the court’s opinion or order, if available):

(7) If your answer to Question (c)(4) or Question (c)(5) is “No,” explain why you did not appeal or raise this issue:

GROUND FOUR:

(a) Supporting facts (Do not argue or cite law. Just state the specific facts that support your claim.):

(b) Direct Appeal of Ground Four:

(1) If you appealed from the judgment of conviction, did you raise this issue?

Yes ☐

No ☐

(2) If you did not raise this issue in your direct appeal, explain why:

(c) Post-Conviction Proceedings:

(1) Did you raise this issue in any post-conviction motion, petition, or application?

Yes ☐

No ☐

(2) If you answer to Question (c)(1) is “Yes,” state:

Type of motion or petition: _____

Name and location of the court where the motion or petition was filed: _____

Docket or case number (if you know): _____

Date of the court's decision: _____

Result (attach a copy of the court's opinion or order, if available): _____

(3) Did you receive a hearing on your motion, petition, or application?

Yes ☐ No ☐

(4) Did you appeal from the denial of your motion, petition, or application?

Yes ☐ No ☐

(5) If your answer to Question (c)(4) is "Yes," did you raise the issue in the appeal?

Yes ☐ No ☐

(6) If your answer to Question (c)(4) is "Yes," state:

Name and location of the court where the appeal was filed: _____

Docket or case number (if you know): _____

Date of the court's decision: _____

Result (attach a copy of the court's opinion or order, if available): _____

(7) If your answer to Question (c)(4) or Question (c)(5) is "No," explain why you did not appeal or raise this issue: _____

13. Is there any ground in this motion that you have not previously presented in some federal court? If so, which ground or grounds have not been presented, and state your reasons for not presenting them:

Ground one. Claims of ineffective assistance of counsel are more appropriately reserved for collateral review under 28 U.S.C. Section 2255 than direct appeal.

14. Do you have any motion, petition, or appeal now pending (filed and not decided yet) in any court for the you are challenging? Yes ☐ No ☒

If "Yes," state the name and location of the court, the docket or case number, the type of proceeding, and the issues raised.

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15. Give the name and address, if known, of each attorney who represented you in the following stages of the judgment you are challenging:

(a) At the preliminary hearing:

Cody Cofer- 604 E 4th St Suite 101, Fort Worth, TX 76102

(b) At the arraignment and plea:

Cody Cofer- 604 E 4th St Suite 101, Fort Worth, TX 76102

(c) At the trial:

(d) At sentencing:

Cody Cofer- 604 E 4th St Suite 101, Fort Worth, TX 76102

(e) On appeal:

Cody Cofer- 604 E 4th St Suite 101, Fort Worth, TX 76102

(f) In any post-conviction proceeding:

(g) On appeal from any ruling against you in a post-conviction proceeding:

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16. Were you sentenced on more than one court of an indictment, or on more than one indictment, in the same court and at the same time? Yes ☐ No ☒

17. Do you have any future sentence to serve after you complete the sentence for the judgment that you are challenging? Yes ☐ No ☒

(a) If so, give name and location of court that imposed the other sentence you will serve in the future:

(b) Give the date the other sentence was imposed: _____

(c) Give the length of the other sentence: _____

(d) Have you filed, or do you plan to file, any motion, petition, or application that challenges the judgment or sentence to be served in the future? Yes ☐ No ☐

18. **TIMELINESS OF MOTION:** If your judgment of conviction became final over one year ago, you must explain why the one-year statute of limitations as contained in 28 U.S.C. § 2255 does not bar your motion.*

The Fifth Circuit affirmed this Court's judgment on March 29, 2021. From that date, Mr. Taylor had 150 days to file a petition for writ of certiorari to the United States Supreme Court. On March 19, 2020, the Supreme Court issued an Order extending the deadline to file a petition for writ of certiorari to 150 days in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Court's Order was rescinded on July 19, 2021.

Because Mr. Taylor did not petition for certiorari, his judgment of conviction became final 150 days after the Fifth Circuit's judgment, or on August 26, 2021. Accordingly, Mr. Taylor's motion is timely filed under 28 U.S.C. § 2255 (f)(1) if filed on or before August 26, 2022.

* The Antiterrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act of 1996 ("AEDPA") as contained in 28 U.S.C. § 2255, paragraph 6, provides in part that:

A one-year period of limitation shall apply to a motion under this section. The limitation period shall run from the latest of –

- (1) the date on which the judgment of conviction became final;
- (2) the date on which the impediment to making a motion created by governmental action in violation of the Constitution or laws of the United States is removed, if the movant was prevented from making such a motion by such governmental action;
- (3) the date on which the right asserted was initially recognized by the Supreme Court, if that right has been newly recognized by the Supreme Court and made retroactively applicable to cases on collateral review; or
- (4) the date on which the facts supporting the claim or claims presented could have been discovered through the exercise of due diligence.

Therefore, movant asks that the Court grant the following relief:

Vacate sentence and grant all further relief under 28 U.S.C. Section 2255

or any other relief to which movant may be entitled.

/s/ Zachary Newland
Signature of Attorney (if any)

I declare (or certify, verify, or state) under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct and that this Motion under 28 U.S.C. § 2255 was placed in the prison mailing system on _____ .
(month, date, year)

Executed (signed) on _____ (date)

Signature of Movant

If the person signing is not movant, state relationship to movant and explain why movant is not signing this motion.